DASH!
Y'
SNAP
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
I GET ASSAULTED AND SHE SNEAKS OFF AGAIN!
...!
AFTER HIM!
OH THEY'RE SO CUTE!!
CAN I TAKE A PICTURE, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE?
MARRY ME!
ME, TOO! ME, TOO!
ME THREE!
O-OF COURSE!
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!
FALSE ACCUSATIONS!

BONK
HEY!
CRASH
WOAH!
RUN
NO RUNNING, DAMMIT!!
SORRY!! SORRY!! COMING THROUGH!!
EEEK!!!
Um, wait...

...WHY AM I RUNNING, AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW.
I GUESS IT'S THE THING TO DO WHEN A HOT GUY YOU'VE HAD A CRUSH ON FOR YEARS WANTS TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.
ONLY, UM. NOT.
...UNLESS YOU'RE TRYING TO LOSE WEIGHT.
...!
GRAB

CHRISS!!
...I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU!

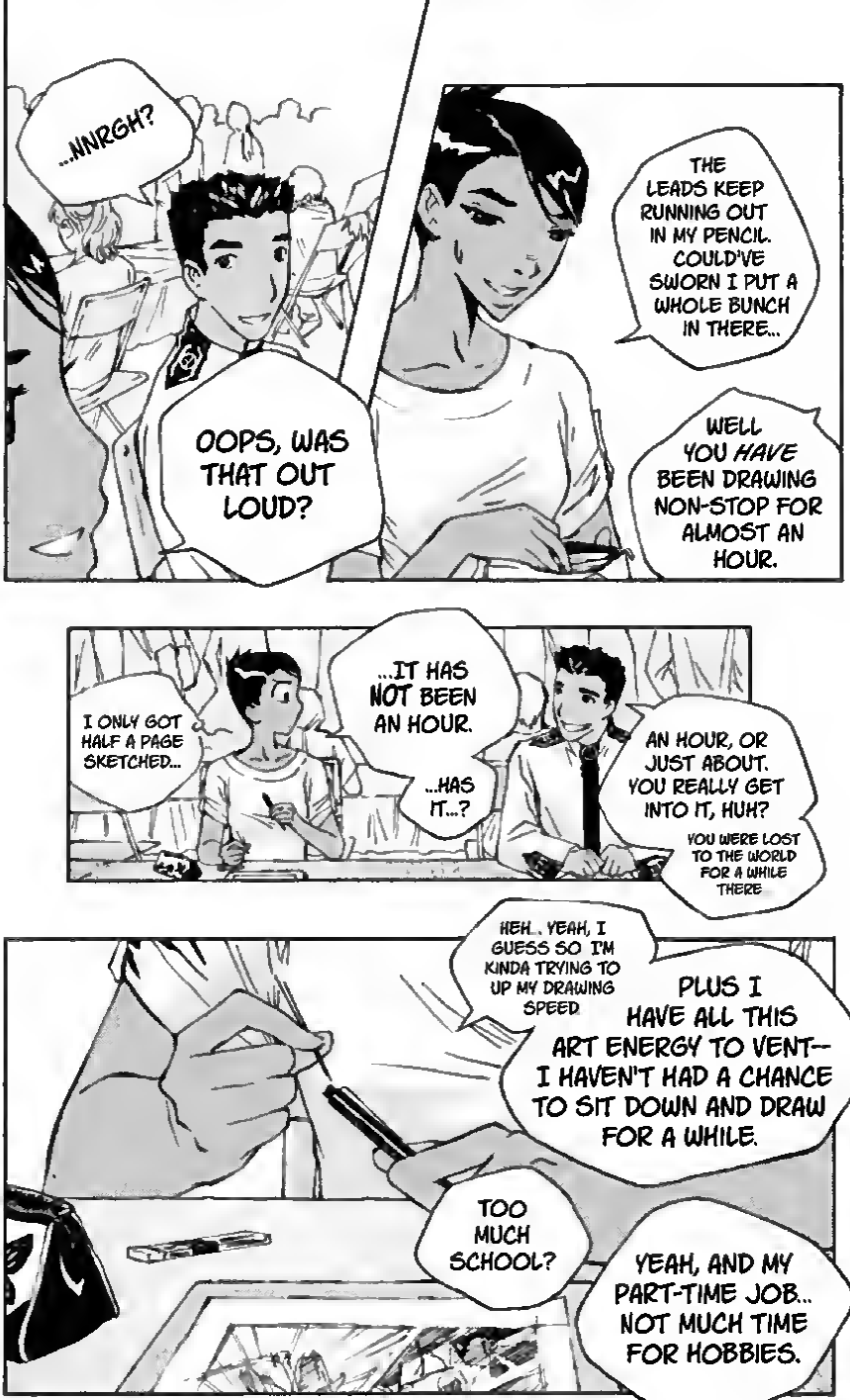
NNN NGH!!!

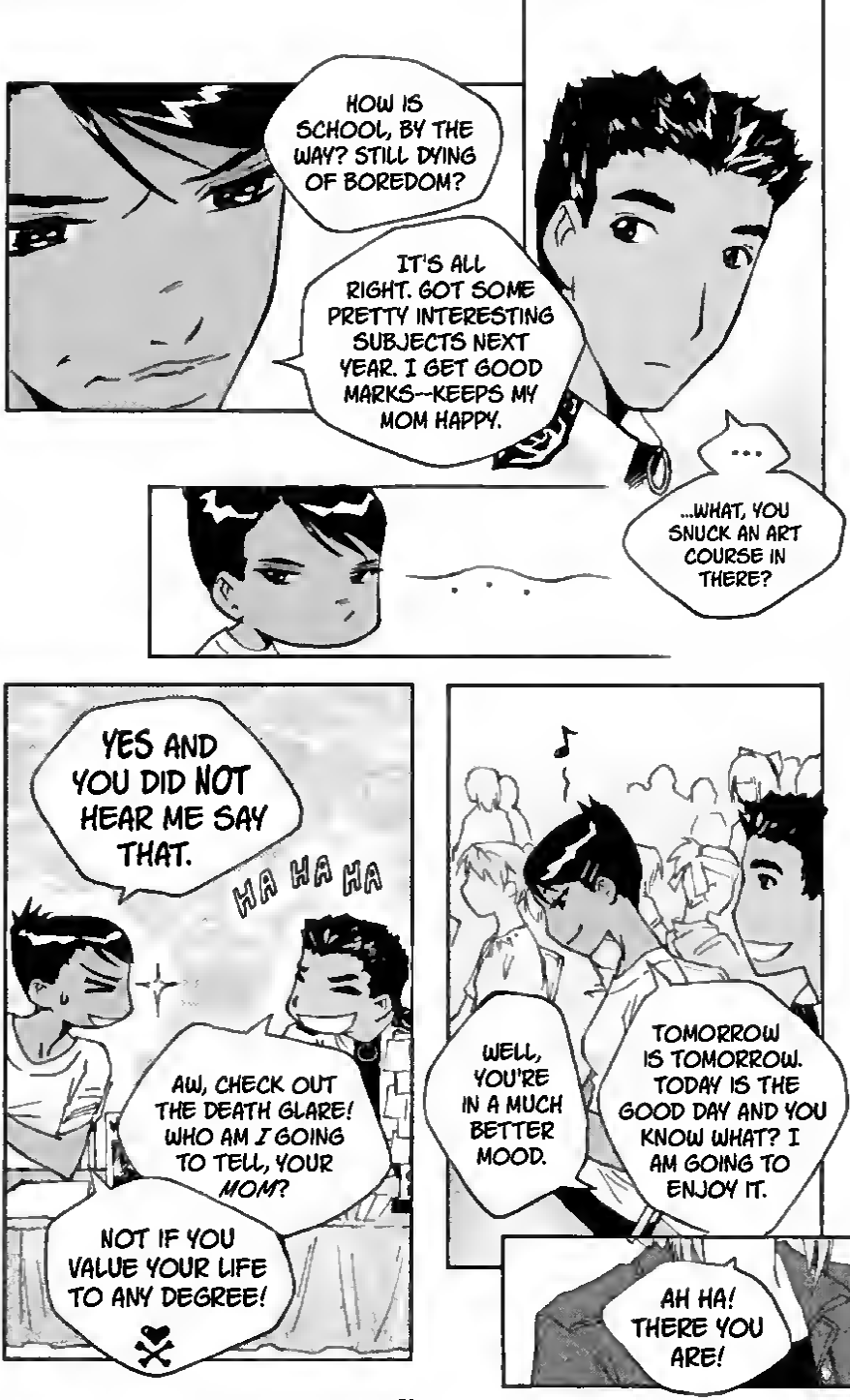
BUMP

CHAPTER 3

...BOOK-MARKS, TOO.
HYU-JEONG ISN'T AROUND?
NAH, THEY'RE BUSY BUYING THE DEALERS' ROOM, HA HA! THEY'LL BE BACK LATER.
COOL! TELL HER I SAID HI SEE YA LATER!
THANKS, MAN. LATER!
FUMP
...WHY IS TODAY SO SLOW? AND THE MORNING WAS WAY TOO EARLY...
YAAWN!
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
MMBL
MMBL
SKRTCH

START CONVERSATION
YES
NO
ENTER TOPIC:
OK
ERROR: INVALID VALUE
RETRY?
MUSSA
MUSSA
...
NNRGH!
...?


...NNRGH?
OOPS, WAS THAT OUT LOUD?
THE LEADS KEEP RUNNING OUT IN MY PENCIL. COULD'VE SWORN I PUT A WHOLE BUNCH IN THERE...
WELL YOU *HAVE* BEEN DRAWING NON-STOP FOR ALMOST AN HOUR.
I ONLY GOT HALF A PAGE SKETCHED...
...IT HAS **NOT** BEEN AN HOUR.
...HAS IT...?
AN HOUR, OR JUST ABOUT. YOU REALLY GET INTO IT, HUH?
YOU WERE LOST TO THE WORLD FOR A WHILE THERE
HEH... YEAH, I GUESS SO. I'M KINDA TRYING TO UP MY DRAWING SPEED.
PLUS I HAVE ALL THIS ART ENERGY TO VENT-- I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO SIT DOWN AND DRAW FOR A WHILE.
TOO MUCH SCHOOL?
YEAH, AND MY PART-TIME JOB... NOT MUCH TIME FOR HOBBIES.


HOW IS SCHOOL, BY THE WAY? STILL DYING OF BOREDOM?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. GOT SOME PRETTY INTERESTING SUBJECTS NEXT YEAR. I GET GOOD MARKS--KEEPS MY MOM HAPPY.
...
...WHAT, YOU SNUCK AN ART COURSE IN THERE?
YES AND YOU DID NOT HEAR ME SAY THAT.
HA HA HA
AW, CHECK OUT THE DEATH GLARE! WHO AM I GOING TO TELL, YOUR MOM?
NOT IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE TO ANY DEGREE!
WELL, YOU'RE IN A MUCH BETTER MOOD.
TOMORROW IS TOMORROW. TODAY IS THE GOOD DAY AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I AM GOING TO ENJOY IT.
AH HA! THERE YOU ARE!

..?
SO IT'S YOUR DRAWING THAT'S ON EVERY CON T-SHIRT?
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOUR STYLE--CONGRATS!
...OH, HELLO!! UM, THANK YOU! ...HOW ARE YOU?
OH, NOT TOO BAD.. I'D BE BETTER IF LIDA HANDED HER SCRIPT IN ON TIME.
FOR ONCE.
NEW BOOK, MOVIE DEAL AND ALL--SHE GETS MOBBED IF SHE GOES OUT ON THE FLOOR THESE DAYS. TOO FAMOUS FOR HER OWN GOOD.
NAH, SHE'S BACK IN THE SUITE, HIDING.
HA HA! IS SHE WITH YOU?
OH, RAJ, THIS IS TAMARA, SHE IS LIDA'S EDITOR AT MANGAPOP.
VERY NICE TO MEET YOU!
CALL ME TAM.
SO, LISTEN, I ACTUALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO HANG AROUND, BUT I'M JUST GOING AROUND AND MAKING SURE PEOPLE KNOW THAT MANGAPOP'S OPENED PITCH SUBMISSIONS AS OF THIS WEEKEND.
..!
AND I REMEMBER THAT YOU GUYS HAD SOME INTERESTING STUFF--ANYTHING YOU WANT TO GIVE ME TO LOOK AT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I JUST WANTED TO SAY HI, I WASN'T...
I TOLD YOU WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU TOUCH HER AGAIN.
M-MATT, WAIT, IT'S OKAY! UM...

DEREK, I...
HONEY? THERE YOU ARE!
I FOUND THE TOROTO PLUSHIE!! BUY IT FOR ME?
SURE.
...ARE THESE YOUR FRIENDS? INTRODUCE ME, HONEY...
...OH, YOU WERE TALKING, SORRY!
HI
...UH.

...UM. THIS IS MARIA, MY FIANCÉE.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
AND THIS IS CHRISTIE AND... MATT. WE, UM, WE'RE...
WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER.
OH MY GOSH! HIGH SCHOOL BUDDIES?!
...
OH, YOU MUST KNOW ALL KINDS OF EMBARRASSING STUFF ABOUT HIM, HA HA!
CHRISS?
ACTUALLY!!
IT'S JUST ME, MATT DIDN'T GO TO OUR SCHOOL...

...HE'S AN EAST COAST BOY, HA HA!
I ACTUALLY DON'T HAVE AS MUCH DIRT ON DEREK AS YOU'D THINK!
...
JUST... YOU KNOW. STUPID TEENAGER HIGH SCHOOL STUFF.
AWWW, NO BLACKMAIL MATERIAL?
WELL, GIVE ME YOUR E-MAIL, IF I REMEMBER ANYTHING, I'LL BE SURE TO SHARE.
DEAL! I'LL GIVE YOU MY CELL NUMBER, TOO.

I WISH I HAD SOME CURRENT DIRT TO OFFER IN EXCHANGE, BUT THE BOY IS TOO SQUEAKY-CLEAN, HA HA!
YOU KNOW, NOT EVERY GUY CAN FACE AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY LIKE A MAN.
IT PROBABLY HELPS WHEN HE'S NOT THE ONE PREGNANT.
HA-HA!
OH, I LIKE THAT!!
...MET IN COLLEGE, ALMOST A YEAR NOW.
KIND OF SURREAL
I CAN IMAGINE! WHEN'S THE WEDDING?
AUGUST! AND I'M SO NOT READY...
...OOOHH, I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SIT DOWN.
LEAN
AH, CAREFUL! THERE ARE SOME BENCHES OUT IN THE LOBBY, LET'S GO FIND A SPOT.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. LET'S CHAT ANOTHER TIME. IT WAS REALLY NICE MEETING YOU!
SAME HERE! FEEL BETTER!

THEY SEEM REALLY NICE! DO YOU WANT TO INVITE THEM TO THE WEDDING?
UM... ...WE MAY NEED TO TALK ABOUT THAT.
...
YOU OKAY?

FUMP
THANK YOU.
FOR ALWAYS FINDING ME...
...

THIS WAS DAMN WEIRD!
WHACK!
...HE'S GETTING MARRIED?! ...HE'S GONNA BE A DADDY?!!
I'M GETTING WHIPLASH JUST THINKING ABOUT THIS!!
PLEASE SIGNAL BEFORE CHANGING TOPIC NEXT TIME OW.
ACK, SORRY! ...THAT'LL BUMP RIGHT OUT!
...I WONDER IF INSURANCE COVERS DAMAGE CAUSED BY ABUSIVE GIRLFRIENDS.
...!
GLANCE
...

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY SOLD INSURANCE TO GLUTTONS FOR PUNISHMENT. I MEAN, REALLY, THE THINGS YOU BRING ON YOURSE--
...
UM WHAT?..
STOP. PLAYING. GAMES.
...

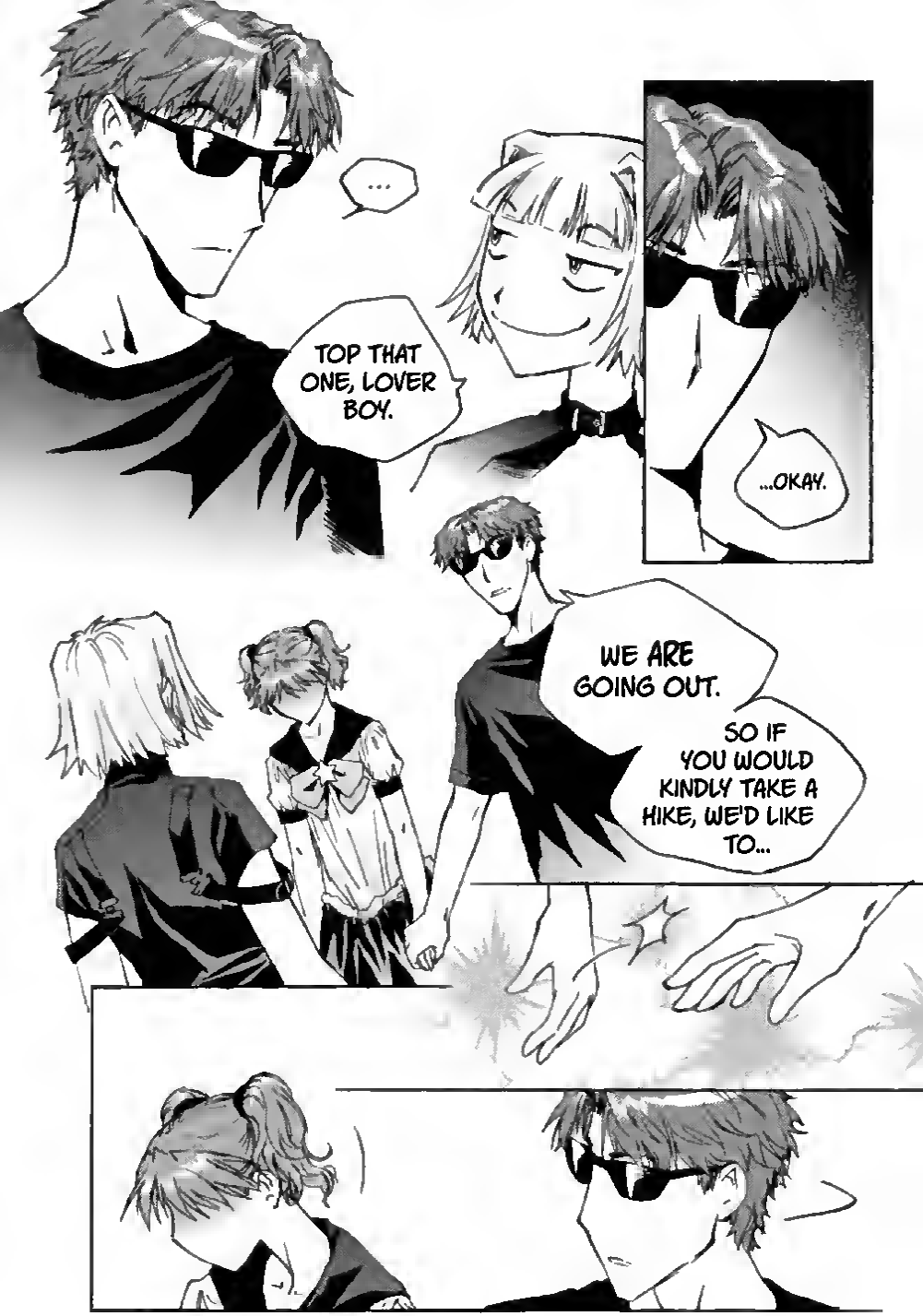
...WHY?
ARE YOU AFRAID...
...YOU'LL LOSE?
...
YOU WANT TO PLAY? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SHY GIRL I MET TWO YEARS AGO?
...SH-SHE IS NOT HERE RIGHT NOW.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE?

FLASH!
CRAP!! WHY DID THE FLASH GO OFF?!!
TOLD YOU A VIDEO WOULD BE BETTER.
.....
I-I MEAN--FOR SHAME, YOU GUYS! RIGHT IN PUBLIC VIEW!
LOOOM
...!!!
Y-YEAH, LIKE... GET A ROOM, YOU TWO!
...
!!
?
NEVER ON THE FIRST DATE!!

GUYS, SERIOUSLY, CAN YOU LIKE... GIVE ME SOME PRIVACY?
...RELATIVE AS THIS TERM MAY BE IN A CROWDED CON CENTER....
I PROTESTED ALL THE WAY HERE, HONEST.
...RAJ, WAIT, TALK SLOWER. ...WHO CAME BY THE TABLE?
...!
WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
THERE WAS A MANGAPOP EDITOR BY OUR TABLE JUST NOW.
SNAP
LET'S ROLL.
UH.
...HEH, YOU GUYS GO. YOU KNOW THEY ONLY LOOK FOR ARTISTS.
THANKS FOR ASKING, THOUGH...
GONE
YANKI.

IMPECCABLE TIMING. IF THEY STAYED A MINUTE LONGER, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN POLICE INVOLVED.
I WEEP CROCODILE TEARS. UN-EMPLOYED WRITERS HAVE MORE FREE TIME TO SPEND WITH HALF-BLIND JERKS.
WELL, SHOW SYMPATHY FOR MY PLIGHT AS AN UNEMPLOYED WRITER, WHY DON'T YOU?!
LIFT
AHA HA HA HA!! PUT ME DOWN! I'LL KICK YOU!!
This warmth...
I can't even describe it.
I wish the world would go away...

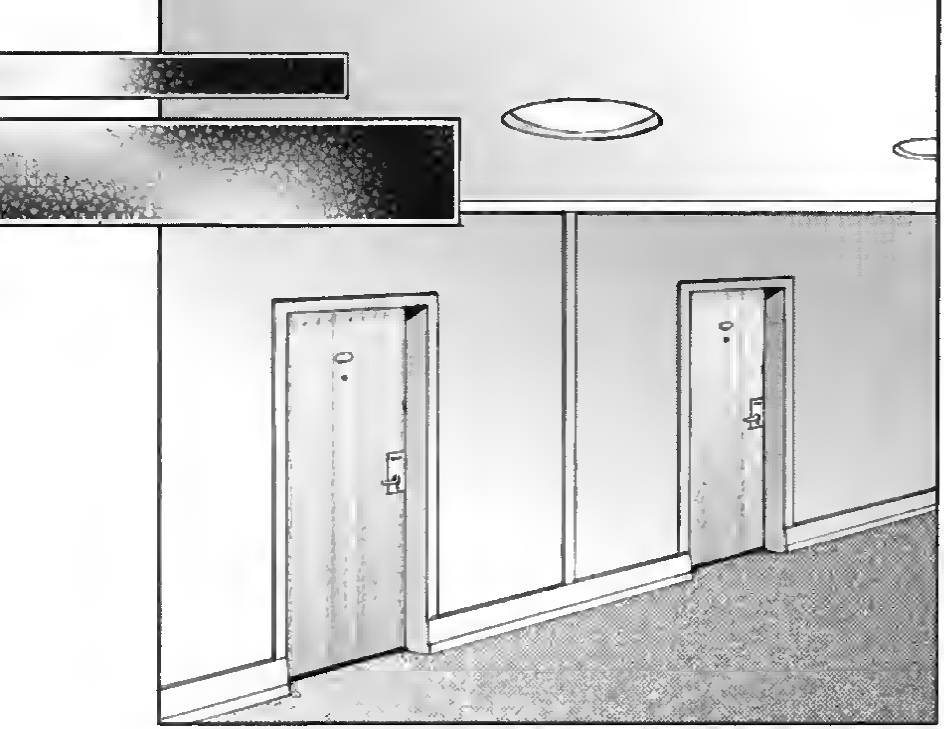
.....
.....I really, REALLY wish the world would GO AWAY.
I'M GOING TO NEED THERAPY IF I KEEP FACING THIS PLACE ALONE...
SERIOUSLY, CAN I HANG OUT WITH YOU TWO FOR A BIT?
...
PRIVACY AT A CON= HA HA HA HA HA HA
WELL, GO BACK TO THE BOOTH, I DON'T...
OH MY GOD, YOU GOT A NEW SHIRT?!
...!!
HEH! YEAH, I THINK EVERYONE NEEDS ONE OF THESE HERE.
HA HA HA, THAT'S HILARIOUS!!
THIS IS THE LESS OFFENSIVE T-SHIRT?!!
LOWER THE VOLUME! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
SHE IS SENSITIVE TO THE FEELINGS OF FANS EVERY-WHERE.
ALAS. SHE'S ALSO SENSITIVE TO THE FEELINGS OF COSPLAYERS EVERYWHERE.
AW, JEEZ, IS THAT WHY YOU'RE NOT WEARING THE COSPLAYER ONE?
MAN! YOU GUYS AREN'T EVEN GOING OUT YET, AND SHE'S ALREADY GOT YOU UNDER HER BOOT!

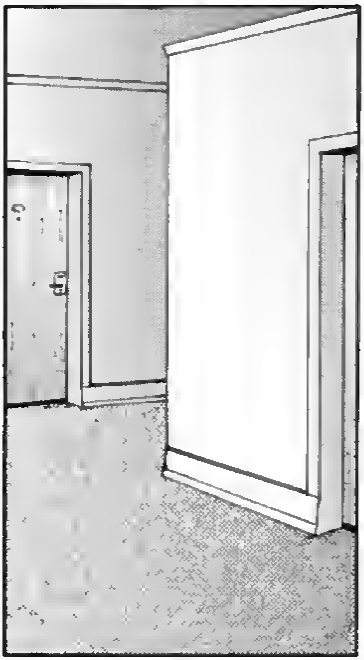

...
TOP THAT ONE, LOVER BOY.
...OKAY.
WE ARE GOING OUT.
SO IF YOU WOULD KINDLY TAKE A HIKE, WE'D LIKE TO...

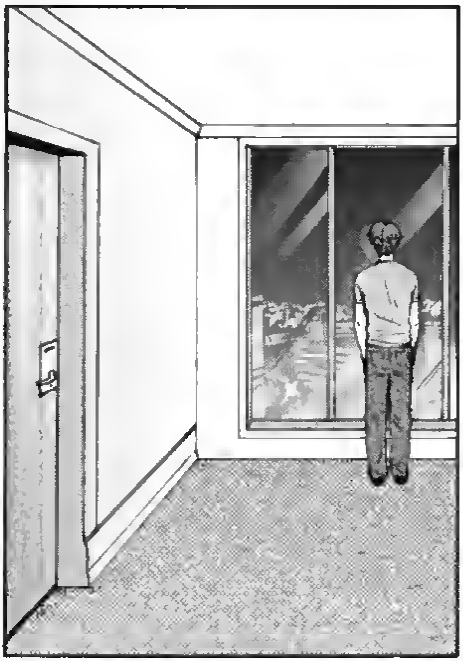
YOU TWO GET ALONG SO WELL.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET A ROOM WITH HER.
....?!

AHHHHH, BED, FINALLY...
HEH, RAJ IS OUT LIKE A LIGHT.
...YOU GUYS OKAY? YOU'VE BEEN SO QUIET.
...HMM? OH.
HAD A LONG DAY TODAY. TIRED.
HAVE A LONG DAY TOMORROW. TIRED, TOO.

...AH, ABOUT TOMORROW, I WAS GOING TO ASK!
WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU?
...
...NO. THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND HER.
AND THANKS, BUT...
DON'T YOU HAVE YOUR OWN STUFF TO DEAL WITH?
MMRWG!
RIGHT. WELL, LIGHTS OUT, THEN.







...
WHY ARE YOU STILL UP?
TOO BUSY BROODING?

WHAT?
I TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T WORK.
OPPOSITES ATTRACT AND THEN THEY BLOW UP IN EACH OTHER'S FACES.
STAY AWAY FROM US TOMORROW.
HA HA HA HA HA
OH MAN! YOU THINK TODAY WAS MY FAULT! HEE HEE HEE!

MATT, BABY, YOU TWO DON'T *NEED* MY HELP TO SCREW THIS UP. AND YOU KNOW IT.
GUYS LIKE YOU JUST DON'T DATE GIRLS LIKE HER.
THE SOONER YOU FACE THAT, THE SOONER YOU CAN GET SOME SLEEP. G'NIGHT!

CHAPTER 4

DAYLOD
TWEET
TWEET
ARGH!!
FIVE PEOPLE IN THE ROOM AND NO ONE COULD'VE SET THE ALARM??!!
USELESS!!
HAS ANYONE SEEN MY SMALL BLACK BAG?
IT'S IN THE BATHROOM! I BORROWED SOME LOTION.
HA HA, RAJ FORGOT HIS KEYCARD AGAIN! WE SHOULD MAKE HIM SING A SONG!
EEK!
ZZRRRG
KNOCK KNOCK
ZZ
...AND HOW COME SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO GET UP?!
BECAUSE SHE'LL BE USELESS UNTIL SHE WAKES UP AND I'M NOT DRAGGING HER LIFELESS CORPSE AROUND.
LET'S PUT TOOTHPASTE ON HER FACE!
LET HIM IN--HE'S GOT COFFEE!!

...
..NOW THAT'S ROOM SERVICE.
...IS CHRISTIE HERE?
SHE'S INDISPOSED. BUT I'M AVAILABLE...
ARE YOU? YOUR BOYFRIEND WILL BE SURPRISED.
I WAS JUST KIDDING!!
...WHAT DO YOU WANT?
JUST TO TALK TO HER.

...
FINE. BUT SHE'S STILL SLEEPING.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT
GIVE HER A KISS! MAYBE SHE'LL WAKE UP!
OKAY, TIME TO GO--WE'RE LATE!
GAWD, YOU'RE ALL SUCH PARTY-POOPERS! I JUST WANT SOME GOOD PICS TO REMEMBER THIS BY!!
YOU ALREADY GOT A PHOTO OF RAJ IN HIS BOXERS.
SHE WHAT?!
LIES! ALL LIES!!
...

MONICA, COME ONNN! WE'RE LEAVING!
HEY, LET ME HELP.
NO, THANKS, I GOT IT.
IS IT OKAY TO LEAVE THEM ALONE?
YEAH. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HE'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
SHE'LL THANK US! :D
I WILL KILL THEM.